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Grounds of Rejection Not on Review

The Examiner indicates in the Examiner's Answer dated April 21, 2006 that the following rejections are not under review on appeal.

1. Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Toshio* in view of *Young*.
2. Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Toshio* in view of *Kroeker* (U.S. Patent No. 5,955,858).
3. Claims 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Toshio* in view of *Young* and *Hansson*, as applied to claim 47 above, and further in view of *Kroeker*.
4. Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Toshio* in view of *Masciarelli* (U.S. Patent No. 4,706,793).
5. Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Toshio* in view of *Young* and *Hansson*, and further in view of *Masciarelli*.
6. Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Okayama* in view of *Young*, and further in view of *Kroeker*.
7. Claims 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Okayama* in view of *Young*, and further in view of *Kroeker*.
8. Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Okayama* in view of *Young*, and further in view of *Masciarelli*.
9. Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Okayama* in view of *Young* and *Hansson*, and further in view of *Masciarelli*.

Applicants agree that the above listed rejections are not under review on appeal. Applicants submit that claims being rejected in the above listed rejections are dependent on claims 8 and 47 respectively, thus, are also patentable if claims 8 and 47 are patentable.

ARGUMENTS

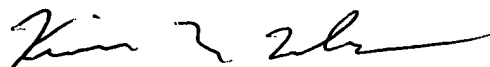
In the paragraph 12 of Office Action dated March 4th, 2005 and the part 9 of the Examiner's Answer dated April 21, 2006, the Examiner indicated that the supporting pin 11 of Figure 3 in *Toshio* may be considered as a socket to support the ball 9. In the Response to Argument of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner argues that "the sidewalls of *Toshio* are the formed ends, and they do, at least to some extent, retain the balls in the socket". Applicants respectfully submit that a portion of the supporting pin 11 of *Toshio* has a concave shape for supporting the ball 9 (paragraph 0019 of *Toshio*). Therefore, the supporting pin 11 (or the socket) of *Toshio* has a supporting surface. *Toshio* further teaches that a separate top plate 10 may be used to preventing fall of the ball and to fix the position of the supporting pin 11 (Paragraph 0020 of *Toshio*). However, *Toshio* does not teach the supporting pin 11 (or the socket) having a formed end or sidewalls to retain the ball 9. Therefore, *Toshio* does not teach or suggest a structure, e.g. a socket, having a ball support surface and a formed end, as recited in claims 8 and 47, and claims dependent thereon. Furthermore, *Toshio* does not teach or show a formed or tapered end for retaining the ball as disclosed in the present invention.

Additionally, the Examiner argues that *Toshio* shows an apparatus for supporting a substrate in a chamber because *Toshio* teaches a device for used in a heat treating oven (part 9 of the Examiner's Answer and paragraph 12 of the Office Action dated March 4th, 2005). Applicants respectfully submit that *Toshio* teaches a type of substrate aligning device used in making color filter for use in liquid crystal display elements (paragraph 0001 of *Toshio*). *Toshio* is silent about a heat treating oven. Therefore, the Examiner's assertion that *Toshio* teaches an apparatus for supporting a substrate in a chamber lacks of support.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 8, 14, 15, 17-21, and 47-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are improper. Reversal of the rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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